

**East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)**  
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members Present:** Sharon Brown, Peter Myo Khin, Curtis Watkins, Frederick Stichnoth, Faustina Smith-Neil, Fisseha Adugna, Jerold Samet, Samantha Blizzard, Len Newman, Roy Chavera.

**Guest Present:** Martin P LePore, Rob Richardson, Ben Miller, Margaret Poore, Harriet Quinn, Frank Cockrell, Mark Doore, Bob Bartol, Peter Fosselman, Ken Flemmer, Lee Yaffe-Stark, Mara Parker, Pat Tyser, John Reed, Ed Weiler, Mark Pharaoh, Lenda Dincer, Eileen Finnegan, Dan Wilhelm, Brian Anleu.

**Staff Present:** Jewru Bandeh, Chiffon Smith

**Citizens' Forum:** Issues/comments received from citizens included – public safety issue to address with Commander Jones was not addressed. Need to hold all accountable. Over 1 year since 3<sup>rd</sup> district citizens' advisory board. Organization has come apart but it was very productive. We have to use spot crime to get information. Significant manhunt and drug arrest. This Saturday at Maydale will work on weeds.

**Special Guest Presentation: Nancy Floreen,** Montgomery County Council President – we have over 1 mil people; 500 square miles – urban suburban, places that are country with any type of ethnicity with serious poverty to incredible wealth. Reorganized commission on common ownership. Will fund Maydale project in the budget. Update on East County deal – conversation is continuing and frustrations that have not been resolved. Won't know until the end of the month as to what's going to happen. The big thing right now is the budget. Will make history and make everyone a little bit mad. Final decision around 5/19/2016. Likely there will be a property tax increase. Voted to reject all the county employee agreements & are in negotiations with the county executive and have asked the board of education to look at their compensations. Proposed increase in the recordation tax (to file documents in court) – will be able to fund board of education capital improvement program. CCOC has a lot of power to deal with people's property, money, etc. and so they need to know the law (answer to concerns about training for CCOC).

County working with owners to revitalize Burtonsville shopping center.

**Erik Wangsness,** President/CEO, Washington Adventist Hospital: presentation highlighted the White Oak Project. Key points discussed included.

- Started as Washington Sanitarium in 1907
- 1350 healthcare staff, 650 physicians
- Acute healthcare facility in White Oak
- Will keep Takoma Park campus and repurpose to serve the community – inpatient behavioral health, inpatient healthcare (stroke recovery), stand-alone emergency care, a lot of primary care services.
- Part of Adventist healthcare – home health services included
- Moving to White Oak will move us to our service population
- Around 6500 employees in Montgomery County
- Will have all private rooms, better access to public transportation, ample on-campus parking, opening in 2019

- Licensed beds from 231(40 behavior health beds) to 170 all-private beds.
- Total investment - \$330 Million
- Economic Impact – 5,695 jobs (2016-2019), 1,184 local jobs held by residents (\$79.5 mil in local personal earnings), 1,901 permanent hospital jobs, \$846 mil construction impact on MD's total economy.
- MD laws changing in that if patient comes back within 30 days, not paying the hospital or you may be penalized & so hospitals are paying more attention to patient health.

**Roger Berliner**, Montgomery County Council Vice President – Tom Hucker wants to add resources to East County. Work on transportation and HHS. Wants BRT – it is a social equity issue. BRT is less expensive than rail. Promoted vision zero to stop pedestrian fatality. Need to work with community leaders for transparency. Chair of Metro Washington Council of Governments – watch over the metro system so we can make it work again. Need more funding to improve metro. Have not invested in the system for 15 years and so all of our jurisdiction will need to come together to pay for it as it is expensive. By January, will go to the governor to address this issue. We recover more from the payment box than any other system. Ridership is going down but metro is sitting on undeveloped real estate. Need to get metro out of the real estate business.

The way we need to create community is from the bottom up not from the top down. We deal with poverty from the bottom up. Working on a microloan program for small businesses with Nancy Floreen and Tom Hucker. DC non-profit that gives \$500 - \$2000 loans to jobless people, homeless people – gets 90% return and minute default. Will introduce hunger legislation. We've never said in our county to end hunger, reduce hunger. We have Smart Snacks Program – packs lunch and deliver to schools with FARMS students. Working on the same program for seniors & they are the largest demographics. Legislation to defer senior home taxes.

Pepco/Exelon merger – he launched fight the hike petition (almost 2K people have signed it)

**Approval of Meeting Summary** – The April 4, 2016 meeting summary was approved.

**Chair's Report: Anthony Ramirez remarks included:**

- The Chair presented the letter about citizen sidewalk concerns.
- Members terming out and will need new members and we will need nominations committee to review the new proposed members in June (end of the cycle).

**Council Staff: Updates highlighted:**

- Fire and rescue service budget – proposed service reduction (aerial units from Hillandale)
- Have put additional folks to the list of reconciliation

**Old Business: None**

**New Business: None**

**Announcements:** The President/CEO has been invited as guest speaker for the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.